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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

### Borough of

### Clifton Dartmouth Hardness

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A. DICK, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

V. E. HUGHES, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.  
Sanitary Inspector,  
Meat and Foods Inspector, Etc.



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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Medical Officer of Health for 1950.

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*To the Worshipful the Mayor and Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Clifton Dartmouth Hardness.*

Mr. Mayor, Lady Councillor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950.

There was a large fall in the Birth Rate from 16.05 to 12.22, per thousand population. This year the Registrar General has resumed the practice (as he did for the Death Rate last year) of giving a comparability factor for the Birth Rate, so that the rate for Dartmouth can be better comparable with the rate in other areas according to sex and age distribution. The Factor is 1.08 which gives a corrected Birth Rate of 13.19.

The Standardised Death Rate is 15.12 as compared with 12.6 last year.

**Infectious Disease.** A limited, but tragic, epidemic of Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) amounting to 13 cases including 5 deaths occurred during the months of August, September and October.

This disease was epidemic throughout the Country. Apart from this the year was generally healthy.

**Diphtheria Immunisation.** There were 71 children aged 0 to 5 years fully protected during the year. 23 children received reinforcing injections. 266 received reinforcing inoculations last year which accounts for the small total this year. There were 470 children 0 to 4 years and 712 of 5 to 14 years resident in the Borough.

**National Assistance Act, 1948** No cases were dealt with during the year.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Based on the Registrar General's figures.

1.

Area in acres	...	...	...	1925
Population—census 1931 (April)		...	...	6707
Registrar-General's estimated resident population 1949,		1950,	6323	
Number of inhabited houses, 1949	"	...	1688	
Number of inhabited houses, 1950		...	1715	
Rateable value	...	...	£52,365	
Sum represented by ld. rate	...	...	£211	

2.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	...	74	44	30
Legitimate	...	70	43	27
Illegitimate	...	4	1	3
Still Births	...	2	0	2
Legitimate	...	2	0	2
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
Crude Birth rate per thousand estimated resident population	...			12.22
Comparability Factor	...			1.08
Corrected Birth Rate	...			13.19
Birth Rate (Still Births)	...			00.32
Birth rate per thousand (Live and Still Births)	...			26.30
		Total	Male	Female
Deaths	...	94	44	50
Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	...			15.12
Comparability Factor	...			0.85
Standardised Death Rate	...			12.85
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth:				
Puerperal Sepsis :	...			0
Other Puerperal Causes	...			0
		Total	Male	Female
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age		4	3	1
Legitimate	...	4	3	1
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age		1	1	0
Legitimate	...	1	1	0
Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
Death rate of infants per 1000 live births	...	...		54.04

### Causes of Death during 1950.

		Total	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ..		1	0	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..		...	0	0
Syphilitic disease ..		...	0	0
Diphtheria ..		...	0	0
Whooping Cough ..		...	0	0
Mening-coccal infections ..		...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ..		...	6	1
Measles ..		...	0	0
Other inf. and parasitic dis.		...	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach		...	1	1
"        "        lung, bronchus		...	3	1
"        "        breast		...	1	0
"        "        uterus		...	1	0
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms		8	5	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ..		...	0	0
Diabetes ..		...	1	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system		...	13	3
Coronary disease, angina		...	13	11
Hypertension with heart disease		...	1	0
Other heart disease		...	12	6
Other circulatory disease		...	7	2
Influenza		...	1	0
Pneumonia ..		...	3	1
Bronchitis ..		...	3	2
Other diseases of respiratory system		..	0	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum		...	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		...	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis		...	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate		...	1	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion		...	1	0
Congenital malformations		...	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases		...	12	5
Motor vehicle accidents		...	0	0
All other accidents		...	2	2
Suicide		...	0	0
Homicide and operations of war		...	0	0
<hr/>				
All causes		Total	94	44
			—	—
			—	—

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Full details of the sanitary circumstances are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk.

Sampling for cleanliness testing continued to be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Periodic sampling for presence of Tubercl infection has continued.

### Ice Cream.

Examination of samples by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter has continued. Ice Cream is graded as follows :—

Provisional Grade.	Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	Interpretation
1.	4½ hours or more.	Satisfactory.
2.	2½ to 4 hours.	Fair
3.	½ to 2 hours.	Unsatisfactory
4.	0.	Very Bad

Your Officers investigate and advise in all cases where satisfactory results are not obtained. It should be noted that the chemical and bacteriological testing of ice cream is still on trial in a scientific sense and has not reached that stage of being able to be used in the taking of statutory action.

### Meat.

It is some satisfaction to note that the percentage of tuberculosis meat found upon meat inspection at the Abattoir is not higher than that for the Country generally.

### Water Supplies.

Supply has been adequate. Chlorination has been continued at the main source as a final treatment after filtration. By maintaining a relatively high dosage of chlorine, the Water Engineer has managed to obtain a final satisfactory drinking water, and I am indebted to him for copies of the bacteriological reports from samples which he has taken monthly.

There are 46 properties scattered about the Borough which get their supply of water from private sources. The majority of these sources of supply are from shallow springs or wells situated invariably on agricultural land and are, with the exception of one, unfiltered and unchlorinated. Numerous samples taken throughout the year have revealed very little evidence of bacterial contamination. Only in the case of two supplies was it necessary to take action to trace and endeavour to eliminate contamination.

### Housing.

Housing details and visits made are noted in the report by the Sanitary Inspector. In addition visits have been made by your M.O.H. in connection with applications for rehousing recommended upon medical grounds by certificates from general medical practitioners.

### Notifiable Diseases.

	Total cases Notified	Removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	4	3
Meales	7	0
Whooping Cough	3	0
Chicken Pox	1	0
Poliomyelitis	13	13
Pneumonia	1	0
	—	—
	29	16
	—	—

There were 7 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified.

I have the honour to be, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. DICK,

M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Sanitary Inspector

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*To The Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.*

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Mr. Mayor, Lady Councillor & Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1950.

### SECTION D.

#### HOUSING.

**1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—**

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act or Housing Acts) .....	..... 249
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	669
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included in the sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 .....	..... 5
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	..... 5
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	..... 192

**2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....

..... 139

**3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—**

(a) Proceedings, under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	0				
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :					
(a) By Owners .....	0				
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0				
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requesting defects to be remedied .....	30				
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—					
(a) By Owners .....	23				
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0				
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—					
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	2				
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	2				
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—					
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	3				
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	0				

**4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART VI. OVERCROWDING.**

- (a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year .....
- .....
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein .....
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein .....



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

Dairies have been visited on 81 occasions and farms 20. During the year two dairies have been equipped with modern pasteurising plants which should soon be in operation. Another dairy has been reconstructed and a fourth is in process of being entirely rebuilt on modern lines. Frequent sampling of milk has been continued throughout the year, and thanks to the use of better sampling equipment only two samples were spoilt in transit. Consequent on one sample of milk being found to be infected with tuberculin bacilli the affected cow was at once traced on the farm and slaughtered under the provisions of The Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

### (b) FOOD PREMISES.

271 visits have been made to food premises during the year. Fourteen notices were issued for infringements of the Food and Drugs Act. There has been a keener desire on the part of most occupiers of food premises to achieve a satisfactory standard of hygiene. This is not easy to accomplish in some of the very old buildings such as are encountered in an Ancient Borough such as this.

#### Inspections. Informal Notices issued

Markets	....	....	....	9	—
Cafes	....	....	....	53	4
Bakehouses	....	....	....	33	1
Hotels	....	....	....	61	3
Ice Cream Premises	....	....	....	47	—
Fish Shops	....	....	....	4	—
Canteens	....	....	....	7	1
Butchers	....	....	....	28	2
Fruit and Grocery	....	....	....	29	3

### (c) MEAT INSPECTION.

Slaughterhouses—There are three slaughterhouses in the district, two private (which have been closed since control started) and one municipally owned abattoir which is now used by the Ministry of Food as a slaughtering centre for Dartmouth and considerable surrounding district. In addition to meat condemned at the Abattoir there was 193lbs. of imported beef and 565-lbs. of various tinned foods condemned at shops. There was noted a small decrease in the percentage of cows found on post mortem inspection, at the

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed .....	687	392	546	5272	64
Number Inspected .....	687	392	546	5272	64
<b>All Diseases Except Tuberculosis</b>					
Whole Carcasses condemned .....	10	6	24	39	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	295	198	7	869	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis .....	44.4%	52.5%	5.6%	17.4%	26.5%
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	7	14	5	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	25	53	—	—	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	4.6%	17.1%	.9%	—	15.6%

Abattoir, to be affected with tuberculosis. The practice has been continued during the year of notifying the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Staff of all tuberculous animals discovered. In this way a follow up can be made on the farms from whence the affected animals came. This has also been done in the case of animals found to be affected with cysticercus bovis (*taenia saginata* in man) of which there has been an increased number during the year. Some three hundred and ten casualty animals were dealt with and inspected during the year. Very few of these were accompanied by a veterinary certificate. Much could be done to reduce this number by compulsory veterinary inspection on the farm of all casualty animals prior to despatch to the Abattoir. In my opinion this is a very necessary safeguard to prevent the spread of infection of animal borne diseases.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Foods submitted for analysis during the year included 11 samples of milk, one sample of fancy cakes, and one of gelatine, all of which were found to be unadulterated.

#### ICE CREAM.

The following samples were submitted to the County laboratory :—

Total.	Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.
28	13	5	5	5

Frequent inspections have been made of ice cream premises and occupiers have co-operated well in maintaining a high standard of cleanliness. The percentage of Grade 1 (satisfactory) samples shew a big improvement on the previous year. Most of the Grade 3 and 4 samples were manufactured by firms outside the borough, these had to be referred to the authorities concerned for the necessary check up on methods of manufacture.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948.

See tables 1 and 2.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 &amp; 1948.

## PART 1 OF THE ACT.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	M/C line No.	Number on Register	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted	M/C line No.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....		1	3	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. ....		2	39	63	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Author- ity (excluding out-workers premises) ....		3	—	—	—	3
Total .....	—	42	63	3	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars	M/C line	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/C line
		No.	Found	Remedied	Referred		
		To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of Cleanliness (51)	4	1	1	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (52) ....	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable Temperature (53)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate Ventilation (54)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (56) ....	8	—	—	—	—	—	8

Particulars M/C line	No.	Found	Remedied	Number of cases in which defects were found			No. of cases in M/C line
				To H.M. Inspector	To H.M. Inspector	which prosecutions were instituted	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<b>Sanitary Conveniences (57)</b>							
(a) Insufficient	9	2	2	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	3	3	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	1	1	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)							
....	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total	7	7	7	—	—	—	—

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

One operator is engaged jointly between Dartmouth and Brixham, working alternate weeks for each Authority.

During the year visits have been carried out as follows :

Private Premises .....	.....	.....	.....	238
Business Premises .....	.....	.....	.....	77
Local Authority Refuse Tip, Abattoir, Housing Estates, etc. ....	.....	.....	.....	382
Local Authority Sewers. One maintenance treatment was carried out. Infestation was found to be very slight.				
Estimated kill : Rats .....	.....	.....	.....	708
Mice .....	.....	.....	.....	398

## SCHOOLS.

School milk (pasteurised) is supplied by two Dairymen in Dartmouth, both these supplies were sampled and found satisfactory.

The cooking centre for school meals was inspected periodically and the high standard of hygiene maintained was very commendable.

## DISINFECTION.

Premises disinfected following infectious disease	27
Bedding, etc., treated in the Council's steam Disinfecter :—	
Articles of clothing .....	130
Carpets and rugs .....	14
Mattresses .....	38
Bedding .....	475
Towels .....	106
Sundry .....	21
Library books treated .....	58
Premises treated for vermin, etc. ....	12
Bedding, etc. (soiled and verminous) destroyed .....	3

## RAG FLOCK ACT.

No action was taken during the year.

## SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Periodic inspections have been made during the year and notices were served for the following :-

Provision of Sanitary Accommodation	1
Provision of Additional Ventilation	4

## PETROLEUM & EXPLOSIVES ACTS.

Number of licenses granted to store Petroleum	9
Number of licenses granted to store Mixed Explosives	11

## GAME DEALERS' LICENCES.

There were three licences granted during the year authorising the dealing in game.

In concluding this report I should like to express my thanks to colleagues in other departments, particularly the Borough Engineer and his staff, for their help and co-operation.

V. E. HUGHES, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector

Meat & and other Foods Inspector, etc







